(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान पकड़ी गई ऐसी निर्यातक फर्मों की संख्या क्या है ; और

(ग) ऐसी फर्मों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : (क) से (ग) मांगी गई जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Export of Flowers affected by Imposition of Tax by EU Countries

1812. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 780 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that EU extends to the Central American and Afr.can, Caribbean and Pac'fic (ACP) countries, the concession of 'no duty' ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the floriculture industry considers the subsidy of Rs 6 to Rs. 10 per Kg. as too meagre;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to raise the subsidy and if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that IATA rates for consignment upto 500 Kg. are higher by about 15 times than those above 500 Kg.

(f) if so, whether Government are considering to remove this anomaly ; and

(g) the names of the countries to which flowers are exported from India alongwith month-wise figures for the last year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) . (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain erstwhile colonies of Member-States of the European Union which are members of the Lome Convention have been given special tariff concessions under the European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences.

(c) and (d) An Air Freight Subsidy Scheme had been introduced on an experimental basis from 79-93, inter-alia for flowers, flower plants/cuttings and tissue culture. Some Exporters have represented that the subsidy levels should be enhanced as the present levels work out to only about 15% of the cost of air freight. There is no proposal presently under consideration of Government to enhance these rates.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Information is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GATT Provisions Relating to Agriculture

1813. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government in order to give effect to the provisions relating to Agriculture in the final act of the GATT ;

(b) what are the stages and levels at which these steps are lying ; and

(c) what is the timeframe within which these steps are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) As no commitments have been undertaken by India in respect of domestic support, export subsidies and minimum market access, the question of taking any steps to give effect to the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture does not arise. In regard to the requirement to institute an arrangement for intellectual property right protection for new plant varieties within a transition period of five years, Government is examining the development of suitable legislation for the purpose.

Indian Exports in Post GATT Scenario

1814. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian exports will grow in the post-GATT scenario;

(b) if so, what are the sectors in which such growth will take place ;

(c) what is the basis for such assessment ; and

(d) whether Government have evolved any concrete year-wise target for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the estimates made by the GATT Secretariat, the largest increase in trade would occur in the areas of clothing; agricultural/forestry and fishery products; and processed foods and beverages as a result of the Uruguay Round. Since our existing and potential export competitiveness

largely lies in these areas, India should get its due share in the overall gains of the Uruguay Round agreement in these sectors.

(d) The Eighth Five Year Plan, 1992—97 has envisaged an annual export growth of 13.6% in value terms or at 1991-92 prices leading to total exports of about US $ 3.5 billion, by the terminal year of the plan.

Increasing World-wide Demand for Tobacco

1815. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Board has noted that world-wide demand for tabacco is increasing every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that world-wide demand for tobacco has increased at 2% per year during the last three years;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has studied these trends ;

(d) how does the Tobacco Board propose to evolve a strategy to take advantage of this increasing world-wide demand of tobacco ; and

(e) the details of any strategy formulated so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Overall consumption of unmanufactured tobacco in the world has on an average increased by nearly 3.7% annually in the last three years ;

(c) to (e) Some of the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Tobacco Board inter-alia include :

(i) Reorienting production and developmental strategies in accordance with the changing international needs ;

(ii) Enhancing quality and productivity levels of Indian tobacco and reducing its production cost to make it more price competitive in international markets ;

(iii) Regular monitoring and strict control of pesticide residues ;

(iv) Encouraging grading by farmers in line with international grading systems.

Improvement of Looksan Tea Gardens, Jalpaiguri

1816. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any plan or programme has been undertaken by TTCI for the improvement of productivity as well as profitability of Looksan Tea Gardens, and if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(b) if so, what action is being taken to increase the yield per hectare of the said garden and to improve its dilapidated plant and building conditions;

(c)) whether any plan has been made to use the available land in the said garden for new plantations;

(d) whether it is a fact that Provident Fund contribution amounting to more than Rs. 10 lacs have not been deposited by M/s Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) for their Looksan Tea Unit in Jalpaiguri District (West Bengal) ;

(e) if so, whether it is also a fact that Provident Fund Authorities had to issue an order seizing the bank operations by the management of Looksan Tea Estate ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Following measures have been taken by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. for improvement of production and profitability of Looksan Tea Estate :—

(i) One new CTC machine has been installed.

(ii) Plant and Machineries have been repaired.

(c) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has developed a nursery to cover another 5 hectres of areas under plantations in Looksan Tea Estate.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The Provident Fund Authorities had issued order for seizure of bank operations of Looksan Tea Estate because of delay on the part of Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. to pay provident fund contributions. However, since the Corporation have cleared the arrears, these orders have been withdrawn.

निर्यात वर्धन पंजीगत माल योजना (एक्सपोर्ट प्रोमोशन कैपिटल गुड्स स्कीम)

1817. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :**

श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों के दौरान निर्यात वर्धन पूंजीगत माल योजना शुरु करने की घोषणा की है ;